

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 00578 231150Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCA-01 /129 W
-----231155Z 004453 /46

O R 231126Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7398
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0578

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, IT, LY, TS, MT
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE:
DRILLING BY READING AND BATES

REF: STATE 117163,

1. "J.W. BATES" ARRIVED MALTA MAY 21, BUT ITS DEPARTURE
HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTERNOON OF MAY 24, "TO COMPLETE
LOADING OF PROVISIONS AND SUPPLIES."

2. TAPMEYER DEPARTED FOR HOUSTON EARLY MAY 21 BEFORE
HE COULD BE CONTACTED BY EMBASSY. HOWEVER, EMBOFF MET
WITH JERRY HOKE OF READING AND BATES HOUSTON OFFICE AND
READING AND BATES' LOCAL MANAGER DON MCINTIRE EARLY MAY 23
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PAGE 02 VALLET 00578 231150Z

AND APPRISED THEM OF CONTENTS OF REFTTEL.

3. NEITTER READING AND BATES OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED REPORTED
BUTTES OFFER OF ALTERNATIVE DRILLING CONTRACT BUT SUGGESTED
THAT IF SUCH AN OFFER HAD BEEN MADE, IT MIGHT HAVE INVOLVED
A RIG OTHER THAN THE "J.W. BATES."

4. HOKE NOTED THAT THE ANCHORING OF A DRILLING RIG IS A TICKLISH TASK AT ANY TIME, AND THAT IN THIS INSTANCE, THE PRESENCE OF THE "BOURGUIBA" IN THE VICINITY OF THE DRILLING SITE MIGHT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HE ALSO ADDED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE LIBYANS MIGHT HAVE SEVERAL SHIPS ON HAND TO INSURE THAT THE "J.B. BATES" NOT ENCOUNTER AND DIFFICULTIES.

5. BOTH READING AND BATES OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THE COMPANY WAS NOT CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE LOSS OF THE DRILLING RIG, BUT IT IS CONCERNED OVER THE SAFETY OF THE 83-MAN CREW (APPROXIMATELY 25 OF WHOM ARE US CITIZIENS, 20 MALTESE, AND THE REMAINDER OF VARIOUS OTHER NATIONALITIES). HOKE WENT SO FAR AS TO STATE THAT READING AND BATES WOULD NOT BE UPSET IF THE TUNISIANS BOARDED THE "J.W. BATES" AND SANK IT, AS LONG AS THEY TOOK THE CREW OFF SAFELY. EMBOFF NOTED THAT WHATEVER HAPPENED, READING AND BATES HAD BEEN ADVISED WELL IN ADVANCE OF POTENTIAL DANGER TO BOTH RIG AND CREW.

6. HOKE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY GIST OF CONVERSATION TO TAPPMAYER, WHO PLANNED TO REVIEW THE ENTIRE MATTER WITH SENIOR RADING AND BATES OFFICIALS IN HOUSTON, AND PRESUMABLY WITH DEPARTMENT, PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MAY 24 SAILING OF THE "J.W. BATES".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, DISPUTES, TERRITORIAL WATERS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770526/aaaaawne.tel
Line Count: 88
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Reference: 77 STATE 117163
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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SAS ID: 2399917
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Subject: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: DRILLING BY READING AND BATES
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, IT, LY, TS, MT
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